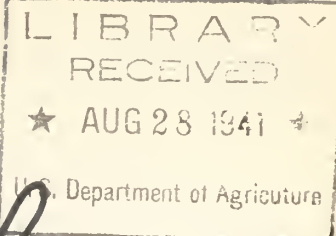


Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



5 Minutes of **Facts for** **AAA NEWS BRIEFS** **NORTHEAST COMMITTEEMEN**

Issued by the Northeast Division
Agricultural Adjustment Administration
U.S.D.A. Washington, D.C.

VOL. III JULY 1941 NO. 5

THE AAA'S FORGOTTEN MAN COMES INTO HIS OWN

The Community Committeeman -- elected then forgotten until the next election. Or brought to one county meeting without much of anything to do about it afterward -- still the picture in too many counties.

The contrast: the Community Committeeman, elected after the farmers of the community have pretty well canvassed the situation to pick out the man who can do the best job for them. Then taking on the responsibility of seeing that everybody in his community has the facts straight about the program, that misunderstandings are straightened out, arranging a meeting if necessary and calling in a county committeeman or the county agent if he needs them -- but getting the thing straight, and as a consequence seeing that his community gets all the good it can out of the program and is ready to chip in its support where it is needed as a part of broader cooperation.

These community elections that are coming up this fall are vitally important as a part of the process of seeing that we have community committeemen in every community doing this sort of a job.

Plans for the election meetings ought to include the whole families of the farmers eligible to vote so that they have a mighty good meeting with a movie like "Harvests for Tomorrow," a little local entertainment, a short statement by a county committeeman about what the program is doing and ought to do locally, and the election.

Let's pick out the best men we have -- get them to accept the responsibility. Of course, some of them may feel that they can't find the time, but there is an opportunity and an obligation for service. Let's do this and make the community committeemen -- as they ought to be -- the most important part of the AAA.

A. W. Manchester

Director, Northeast Region.

POTATO BILL INTRODUCED AFTER NORTHEAST FARMERS ARE HEARD

The potato bill, drawn up along the lines suggested by representative farmers of the Northeast and other parts of the country, was introduced into the House of Representatives on July 21 by the Honorable Hampton P. Fulmer, chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture.

The bill provides for marketing quotas on potatoes in any year in which they are favored in a referendum by more than two-thirds of the producers affected. Provisions of the bill would apply only to growers of 3 acres or more. A part of the purpose of the bill, as stated in the version that was introduced, is *"to provide for an adequate and stable supply with fair prices for producers and consumers."*

General provisions of the bill were outlined at a meeting of Northeastern and other potato farmers with Chairman Fulmer some time ago.

The bill also provides that any time when marketing quotas are in effect, excess potatoes may be diverted from normal channels, or they will be subject to penalty. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to establish an agency to which excess potatoes may be delivered and which would return to the growers the amount realized from the disposition of the potatoes.

Excess potatoes would be those produced on commercial farms on acreages planted in excess of acreage allotments. In case of burdensome supplies resulting from very high yields, a small percentage (in no case more than 10) of the production within allotments may also be made independently for early potatoes, mid-season potatoes, or late potatoes, as conditions justify.

If the situation would be better handled by doing so, the excess may be determined to consist of certain grades -- that is, for instance, it may be determined that farmers may dispose of their excess by delivering the entire quantity in the lower grades.

The bill is drawn to avoid necessity of checking on the marketing of potatoes or on yields, except on application of the grower. Determination of the excess would be based upon the check that is now made on acreages.

Provision is made for the continuation of all present surplus removal and price-supporting measures. No date for hearings on the bill has yet been set.

NORTHEAST SOIL-BUILDING RATES UNCHANGED IN MAJOR PROVISIONS

Northeast Region rates on which the soil-building allowance for the 1942 program will be computed are virtually the same as in 1941, except that the rate of vegetable acreage is reduced 30 cents and the rate on orchard land is increased 20 cents per acre, according to a recent announcement.

In most of its important provisions, according to A. W. Manchester, Northeast Regional Director, the 1942 program will be the same as that for 1941. One of the principal exceptions is that there will be no vegetable allotment, this payment being earned by soil-building practices only. There will be minor changes in rates of payment for certain practices and other shifts in details.

CANADIAN FORAGE DUTY LIFTED FOR NER DROUGHT RELIEF

Moving to aid dairy farmers in the areas most severely damaged by the drought in the Northeast, Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard recently designated 10 New York counties as in the drought area, in accordance with the July 25 proclamation of the President authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to remove the duty from Canadian forage for such drought counties as Secretary Wickard might name.

Secretary Wickard requested that hay and straw be designated as the types of forage to be imported free of duty. The present tariff on imported hay is \$2.50 per ton of 2,000 pounds, and on imported straw it is 75 cents per ton. Information on the steps by which farmers in drought-stricken areas may get the hay or straw may be obtained from county AAA offices.

The 10 New York counties named are Niagara, Oswego, Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Lewis, Franklin, Clinton, Washington, Saratoga, and Essex. These counties constitute the heart of the Northeast drought area at present. Other counties can be named if future developments warrant their inclusion in the drought area.

Latest estimates indicate that hay production has been cut more than 50 per cent in the worst drought areas of New York. Farmers in this area not only have been unable to maintain production of their herds at a level in keeping with the food-for-defense program, but many face the necessity of reducing herds to get through the coming winter. Pastures have also been so short that farmers have been drawing on winter feed supplies.

Current hay prices in northern New York are reported to range from \$15 to \$22 per ton -- 50 per cent higher than normally.

Other drought relief steps previously taken by the Department of Agriculture include:

1. *Modification of the Agricultural Conservation Program of the AAA to encourage the increased planting of emergency forage crops.*
2. *Shipment of some 9,000,000 bushels of corn for storage into Eastern points. Of this total, some 2,000,000 bushels have already been sold. It is intended to build Eastern stocks up to about 10-1/2 million bushels and keep them at that level.*
3. *The Farm Security Administration is making loans to its borrowers for the purchase of all feed necessary to maintain dairy herds, including foundation herds.*
4. *The Commodity Credit Corporation and the Farm Credit Administration announced an arrangement on July 16 whereby reserve supplies of milled feed would be stored on farms in Northeastern States. By this plan, grain owned by the CCC would be sold to farmer co-operatives for milling and then stored on farms under an agreement that would protect farmers from price declines.*
5. *Department officials testified at a hearing before the Eastern Trunk Lines traffic committee on a petition for lower freight rates on hay to the stricken area. The hearing was held in New York City July 31, with the decision to be announced later.*

CROP INSURANCE DEADLINE NEAR; PLAN GAINS IN NER POPULARITY

Approach of the final date on which farmers may apply for wheat insurance this year recalls the steady gains in popularity made by the crop insurance program.

In 1940 there were 6,775 policies issued to farmers in Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey; in 1941 this figure jumped to 8,682 for the same States -- the only ones in the Northeast Region that have considerable wheat production. In 1940, 78,778 acres were insured as against 103,309 acres under the 1941 program. A total of 1,130,127 bushels were insured in 1940, while 1,623,372 bushels were covered in 1941. Indications are that 1942 totals will surpass those of 1941.

Final date for receipt of insurance applications is August 31 or the date of planting wheat, whichever is earlier.

NORTHEAST COMPARES FAVORABLY IN CONSERVATION MATERIALS ORDERS

Under the 1941 program, a total of 668,355 tons of liming materials and 151,237 tons of superphosphate had been ordered through July 25 by States of the Northeast Region.

In comparison with other regions, the Northeast stood second in total superphosphate orders as of this date, and third in the volume of liming materials.

State tonnage orders for superphosphate are:

Connecticut -----	4,900
Maine -----	13,423
Massachusetts -----	9,126
New Hampshire -----	11,896
New York -----	57,307
Pennsylvania -----	11,420
Rhode Island -----	1,263
Vermont -----	11,898

Liming material tonnage orders are:

Connecticut -----	41,023
Maine -----	45,492
Massachusetts -----	30,649
New Hampshire -----	24,632
New York -----	333,171
Pennsylvania -----	146,908
Rhode Island -----	5,764
Vermont -----	40,714